

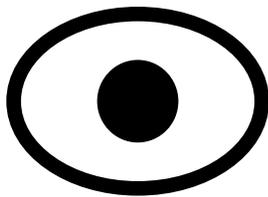
PERTH HIGH SCHOOL



ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

GUIDE FOR PARENTS & CARERS

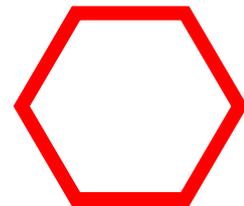
2019/20



SPOT IT



SAY IT



STOP IT

The young people of Perth High School described bullying behaviour as:

“ Bullying is when someone deliberately tries to hurt or abuse you verbally, emotionally and physically. They do it because they know that it will affect you.”

“People making fun of people’s sexuality.”

“Harassing somebody physically, emotionally, mentally or verbally. Making them dislike or feel bad about themselves or their hobbies, families or interests.”

“Bullying is where someone decides to make fun or abuse someone else because of who they are e.g. where they come from, their race, their colour, their accent or their beliefs.”

“Making someone feel small or unworthy – physically, verbally or mentally abusing them to make yourself feel better and them feel worthless.”

“ When people make fun of you in group chats or take pictures of you without you knowing and share them to make you look stupid or embarrass you”

“Bullying is when someone does, says or texts someone and leaves them feeling scared, anxious or depressed.”

Anti-Bullying Policy

Aims

- To ensure that young people respect each other in a considerate, sensitive and civilised manner;
- To allow young people to develop into Confident Individuals, Responsible Citizens, Successful Learners and Effective Contributors.

Objectives

- To stop bullying from occurring;
- To provide young people, parents/carers and all staff with information on how to prevent, reduce and resolve bullying behaviour when it occurs;
- To provide information about what support is available for those on the receiving end of bullying behaviour and those displaying bullying behaviour;
- To explain the procedures for logging instances of bullying behaviour in accordance with Perth & Kinross Council Policy;

To develop a culture that encourages respect, values opinion, celebrates difference and promotes positive relationships.

Perth High School's Better Relationships Policy underpins all approaches to relationships and behaviour management within the school. At the heart of this policy, restorative approaches inform the key steps which will be taken to continue to establish positive working relationships. However, Perth High School takes any form of unwanted physical contact very seriously and insists that it can always be avoided. Any young person who is found to have physically assaulted a fellow young person, will be excluded and the police informed. We define physical assault as any action involving unwanted physical contact. Perth & Kinross Council exclusion procedures will then be followed.

What is Bullying Behaviour?

There are many different definitions of bullying behaviour. Bullying is both behaviour and impact. What someone does and the impact it has, affects how much a person feels in control of themselves. It can be offensive, abusive, intimidating, malicious or insulting behaviour. It is an abuse of power or authority, which can undermine an individual or group contributing to unhappiness; anxiety and stress. The impact of bullying behaviour is a major barrier to learning.

Bullying is not a normal part of growing up.

Bullying can be understood as behaviour which leaves people feeling helpless, frightened, anxious, depressed or humiliated.

The behaviour may be intentional or unintentional and may be repeated over time or be a *one-off* incident.

Bullying behaviours can be described as verbal, physical or 'cyber' and may include:

- Name calling, teasing, putting down or threatening;
- Hitting, tripping and kicking;
- Stealing and damaging belongings;
- Ignoring, isolating, leaving out others and spreading rumours;
- Sending abusive text, email or instant messages;
- Making people feel like they are being bullied or fearful of being bullied;
- Targeting someone because of who they are or are perceived to be.

The Equality Act (2010) makes it the duty of all schools to ensure that people who share protected characteristics and those who don't, get on and don't face any prejudice or discrimination.

All complaints or allegations made by young people about being bullied will be taken seriously.

Whenever a young person feels bullied, victimised, distressed or "got at" by others, intervention procedures will be instigated promptly no matter how the bullying behaviour has been defined.

Tackling Bullying

Preventing and responding to bullying behaviour is the responsibility of all members of the school community - young people, staff and parents/carers. Perth High School has in place procedures to address bullying behaviour and it is essential that all young people, staff and parents/carers are aware of these procedures.

Perth High School has a responsibility to provide effective support to young people, including the person experiencing bullying behaviour and the person displaying bullying behaviour. The circumstances and needs of individual young people will be taken into account when deciding on the approach to be adopted in resolving incidents of bullying behaviour. When reviewing and designing this policy it was clear that young people, staff and parents of Perth High School wished the ethos to be one of a 'Speak Up Culture'. The ethos we continue to encourage is one in which young people know that "it is all right to tell" about bullying behaviour.

In our school community we aim to demonstrate how to resolve disagreements in respectful ways.

**Perth High School has a
"Speak Up Culture"**

We ask parents and cares to discourage all forms of retaliation.

If you have concerns about bullying behaviour we want to know. Please let us know about any concerns you have as soon as possible

Prevention of Bullying

- Our Better Relationships policy and practices emphasise positive interactions and mutual respect on a daily basis throughout the school community;
- Anti-Bullying messages will permeate all aspects of the curriculum;
- Advice will be issued at assemblies and in personal and social education classes of the appropriate use of social on-line and mobile technologies;
- Anti-Bullying is the responsibility of all staff;
- Perth High School will promote a culture where bullying behaviour is unacceptable and all staff will model positive, respectful behaviour;
- Areas identified as high risk areas – social areas, corridors etc - will be supervised by staff;
- Areas of safety will be made available to young people who feel upset or need support during school hours. Should these be required, please contact your son/daughter's Guidance teacher.
- Young people experiencing bullying behaviour will be listened to and they will be supported and involved in all steps until the matter is resolved.

SPOT IT, SAY IT, STOP IT!

Quick Guide for Parents/Carers

Remember bullying is any behaviour which takes away your child feeling in control, makes them feel worthless, anxious, frightened or intimidated. If your child experiences any behaviour which makes them feel like this, you should:

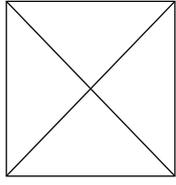
- Inform the school by speaking to your child's Guidance Teacher. This can be done via calling or via email;
- You will be asked if your child knows you are contacting the school and how you would like to proceed;
- The information you provide will then be dealt with immediately by the Guidance Teacher or in some instances be passed to the Year Head where it will be dealt with quickly;
- The next steps to be taken will be discussed and agreed with you and your child before any action is taken;
- You will be sent a letter via email/post outlining what steps we as a school and you as a parent/carer have agreed that will take place to improve the situation;
- Guidance Teacher/Year Head will check in with you after the incident has been reported and action has been taken to ensure things have improved;
- Incident will be formally reviewed 4 weeks from day it is first reported. You will receive a phone call or email informing you that the situation has improved and asking whether you think there is any further support or intervention needed.

We will take every concern raised seriously and aim to address it and improve the situation for your child as quickly and supportively as possible.

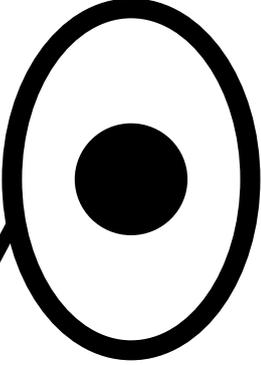
We will stay in close communication from the moment you first bring it to our attention until the matter is resolved to you and your child's satisfaction.



OUR SPOT IT, SAY IT, STOP IT! CODE



YOUNG PEOPLE



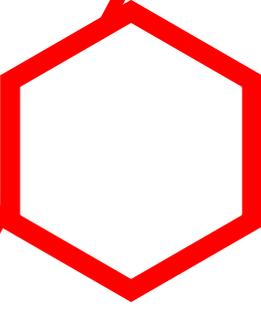
SPOT IT

- Notice what's going on and look for signs of change in your friends.
- Look for people being unkind in class, during social times or online.
- Notice when people have been left out or excluded from a group



SAY IT

- Ask a friend or adult you can trust for advice. Tell a teacher or parent/carer.
- Speak up and don't accept bullying behaviour being displayed in your presence or online.
- Use the report button on the social platform it's happening on.



STOP IT

- Give the person being bullied a supportive message or text
- Encourage people to be respectful and speak up against this type of behaviour.
- Do not get involved/remove yourself from group chats that are inappropriate.